

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/627,759
Amendment filed March 29, 2006
Reply to OA dated January 25, 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 Claims 1- 3(canceled).

1 Claim 4 (previously presented): A steam-supplying apparatus, comprising:

2 a steam-generating portion generating steam;

3 an electromagnetic valve receiving the steam from the steam-generating portion, the

4 electromagnetic valve having a valve main body and forming a heating steam circulation passage

5 inside the electromagnetic valve to heat the inside of the electromagnetic valve with the steam from

6 the steam-generating portion when the electromagnetic valve is in a closed state;

7 a tube receiving the steam from the electromagnetic valve when the electromagnetic valve

8 is in an open state, the tube being flexible;

9 a return pipe receiving steam from the electromagnetic valve when the electromagnetic valve

10 is in both the closed and open state, the return pipe being distinguishable from the tube;

11 a steam-blown portion receiving the steam from the tube; and

12 an electric heater being disposed in the steam-blown portion to heat a vaporization space

13 of a steam passage in the steam-blown portion, the electric heater changing water drops to steam

14 in the vaporization space, the steam-blown portion outputting steam and not water drops.

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15 wherein, when the electromagnetic valve is in the closed state, steam circulates from the
16 steam-generating portion through the heating steam circulation passage and around the valve main
17 body and to the return pipe.

1 Claim 5 (previously presented): The steam-supplying apparatus of claim 4, further
2 comprising a return pipe in communication with the heating steam circulation passage, with some
3 of the steam from the steam-generating portion passing through the heating steam circulation passage
4 and the return pipe when the electromagnetic valve is in the closed state and when the
5 electromagnetic valve is in an open state.

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